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REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE UNITED NATIONS OPERATION IN CYPRUS

(For the period 1 December 1990 to 31 May 1991)

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INTRODUCTION

1. The present report on the United Nations operation in Cyprus covers developments from 1 December 1990 to 31 May 1991 and brings up to date the record of activities of the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) and the Secretary-General's mission of good offices pursuant to Security Council resolution 186 (1964) of 4 March 1964 and subsequent Council resolutions concerning Cyprus. In its resolution 680 (1990) of 14 December 1990, the Security Council called upon all the parties concerned to continue to cooperate with UNFICYP on the basis of the present mandate. It also requested the Secretary-General to continue his mission of good offices, to keep the Security Council informed of the progress made and to submit a report on the implementation of the resolution by 31 May 1991.

I. MANDATE AND COMPOSITION OF THE UNITED NATIONS PEACE-KEEPING FORCE IN CYPRUS

2. The function of UNFICYP was originally defined by the Security Council in its resolution 186 (1964) of 4 March 1964 in the following terms:

> "In the interest of preserving international peace and security, to use its best efforts to prevent a recurrence of fighting and, as necessary, to contribute to the maintenance and restoration of law and order and a return to normal conditions."

That mandate, which was conceived in the context of the confrontation between the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities in 1964, has been repeatedly reaffirmed by the Council, most recently in its resolution 680 (1990). In connection with the events that have occurred since 15 July 1974, the Council has adopted a number of resolutions, some of which have affected the functioning of UNFICYP and, in some cases, have required the Force to perform certain additional or modified functions relating, in particular, to the maintenance of the cease-fire (see S/14275, para. 7, and footnote 37).

3. The table below shows the establishment of UNFICYP as at 31 May 1991:

	Military personnel		
Austria	HQ UNFICYP	12	
	Infantry Battalion	388	
	Military police	10	410
Canada	HQ UNFICYP	7	
	HQ CANCON	5	
	The First Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry	538	
	Signal squadron	14	
	Military police	11	575
Denmark	HQ UNFICYP	5	
	Infantry Battalion, DANCON 55	323	
	Military police	13	341
Finland	HQ UNFICYP	4	
	Military police	3	7
Ireland	HQ UNFICYP	6	
	Military police	2	8
Sweden	HQ UNFICYP	4	
	Military police	3	7
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	HQ UNFICYP	19	
	HQ BRITCON	6	
	Force scout car squadron, C squadron, The Blues and Royals	109	
	The Queen's Own Hussars	349	
	HQ UNFICYP support regiment	45	
	Engineer detachment	8	
	Signal squadron	53	
	Army aviation flight	18	
	Transport squadron	103	
	Medical centre	5	
	Ordnance detachment	11	
	Workshops	30	
	Military police	9	765
Subtotal			2 113
	Civilian police		
Australia		20	
Sweden		18	38
Total UNFICYP			2 151

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4. During the period under review UNFICYP suffered three fatalities, two as a result of traffic accidents and one due to natural causes. This brought the total number of fatalities to 161 since the inception of the Force in 1964.

5. Mr. Oscar Camilión continued as my Special Representative in Cyprus. The Force remained under the command of Major General Clive Milner.

II. RELATIONS WITH THE PARTIES

6. UNFICYP maintained close liaison and cooperation at all levels with the two sides in order to carry out its tasks effectively. The Force had freedom of movement in the southern part of the island, except for restricted military installations. Regarding movement in the north of the island, the guidelines established in 1983 (see S/15812, para. 14) continued to be applied. During the period under review, UNFICYP again experienced occasional difficulties. Despite considerable efforts, including discussions with all concerned and indications given to UNFICYP that a response would be forthcoming, it has not been possible for UNFICYP to increase its freedom of movement in the northern part of the island.

7. During the period under review UNFICYP vehicles and personnel were on a number of occasions stopped and sometimes searched when approaching or entering the United Nations buffer zone. These incidents occurred most frequently at the Cypriot Police checkpoint south of Pyla and at the "2.5 mile" checkpoint of the Turkish Cypriot Police Elements. In addition UNFICYP patrols were interfered with by troops of both sides when operating in areas of the buffer zone that are sensitive or not operated in frequently. UNFICYP continued to protest such incidents to the authorities of both sides, reiterating its right to complete access to and freedom of movement in all parts of the buffer zone.

III. FUNCTIONS OF THE FORCE

A. Maintenance of the cease-fire and the status quo

8. The cease-fire lines extend approximately 180 kilometres from the Kokkina enclave and Kato Pyrgos on the north-west coast to the east coast south of Famagusta in the area of Dherinia. The area between the lines is known as the United Nations buffer zone. Its width varies from 20 metres to 7 kilometres, and it covers about 3 per cent of the island, including some of the most valuable agricultural land.

9. UNFICYP keeps the United Nations buffer zone under constant surveillance through a system of 150 observation posts, 52 of which are permanently manned. Mobile and standing patrols are also employed, especially in sensitive areas. High-powered binoculars and night-vision devices are used to monitor the cease-fire lines on a continuous basis.

10. The UNFICYP patrol track runs the length of the United Nations buffer zone and is essential to the ability of the Force to monitor the cease-fire lines, supervise farming in the buffer zone, resupply observation posts and react promptly to incidents. British Engineers maintain these tracks in a workable condition but with considerable effort and difficulty.

11. In my last report I mentioned that UNFICYP had initiated a mine-clearing project that will cover certain parts of the buffer zone where members of UNFICYP as well as civilians are at risk. The final report submitted by the Canadian Engineers has been reviewed and consultations are proceeding on the possible initiation of the project.

12. During the period under review, the number of cease-fire violations decreased, and both sides showed considerable restraint and discipline. There were however two occasions when deliberate shots were fired at the other side. On 14 December 1990 the National Guard fired a warning shot at Turkish Forces personnel who were allegedly inside the buffer zone and on 29 April 1991 the Turkish Cypriot Security Forces fired a shot through the window of a National Guard observation post.

13. The 1989 agreement concerning the unmanning of certain positions in Nicosia continued to hold, although during December there was an increase in violations by both sides. UNFICYP is continuing its efforts to extend the agreement to other areas in and adjacent to Nicosia, particularly in areas where the troops of both sides remain in close proximity to each other. It is still experiencing difficulty in achieving this objective.

14. There were six overflights of the United Nations buffer zone by Turkish Forces aircraft and seven by National Guard aircraft. In addition, there were four overflights from the north and five from the south by civilian aircraft. Civilian or military aircraft of other countries accounted for a further five overflights.

15. The National Guard programme to construct improvements to its defensive positions along its cease-fire lines continued to be a contentious issue and caused increased tension throughout the period under review. The Turkish Forces made strong representations to UNFICYP demanding that the work be stopped. They considered many of the positions to be new and provocative and to constitute a change in the status quo. Although UNFICYP continues to express reservations about some of the constructions and complains about the National Guard's failure to advise it beforehand of upcoming work, the programme is continuing. The National Guard continues to state that the works are in its area of control and in no way violate the status quo.

16. In my last report I mentioned that, on 19 July 1990, responsibility for controlling entry into Varosha was formally transferred from the Turkish Forces to the Turkish Cypriot Security Forces, who have been deployed in the fenced area of Varosha. In addition UNFICYP's freedom of movement within the area continues to be restricted. I must again recall my report to the Security Council of 29 May 1987, in which I stated that I have reiterated on

several occasions to the Turkish and Turkish Cypriot authorities that the United Nations considers the Government of Turkey responsible for maintaining the status quo in the fenced area of Varosha (see S/18880, para. 28). UNFICYP continues to maintain this position.

17. Near Kokkina and Famagusta, there was a decrease in violations of the seaward extension of the buffer zone known as the maritime security line, established by UNFICYP as a practical measure for security purposes (see S/17657, para. 19). UNFICYP continues to report each crossing of the line to the authorities concerned and warn both sides of the dangers involved and of the need to practise restraint.

18. UNFICYP continued to forbid hunting in the buffer zone. In December 1990, however, serious incidents occurred when Greek Cypriot hunters entered the buffer zone on numerous occasions. When advised by UNFICYP that they were in a restricted area, they threatened UNFICYP with their weapons and on two occasions fired shots over the heads of UNFICYP personnel. UNFICYP's firm action led to their withdrawal. As a result of these incidents, which could have led to serious consequences, UNFICYP is negotiating with the Cyprus Government to devise a plan that would avoid confrontations of this nature in the future.

19. The Government of Cyprus has again complained to the United Nations about the reported destruction of the Cypriot cultural heritage in the northern part of the island. On my instructions, UNFICYP has raised this question with the Turkish Cypriot authorities.

B. Restoration of normal conditions and humanitarian functions

20. As part of its efforts to promote a return to normal conditions, UNFICYP continued to facilitate economic and other civilian activities in the areas between and adjacent to the cease-fire lines. In particular, UNFICYP continued to encourage farming activities and small commercial activities in the buffer zone.

21. UNFICYP has continued to assist both communities in regard to the supply of electricity and water from one part of the island to the other. It continues to monitor activity on the dam projects on both sides of the buffer zone (see S/21981, para. 25).

22. The 1991 anti-mosquito programme in the buffer zone has started under UNFICYP supervision.

23. The number of Greek Cypriots living in the northern part of the island is now 576, of whom 572 live in the Karpas peninsula and the remaining 4 in Kyrenia. UNFICYP continued to discharge humanitarian functions for these Greek Cypriots and in this regard delivered to them 416 tons of foodstuff and other supplies provided by the Cyprus Government and the Cyprus Red Cross. UNFICYP continued to deliver mail and Red Cross messages across the cease-fire

lines. It also delivered social welfare and pension benefits to Greek Cypriots living in the northern part of Cyprus. UNFICYP personnel continued to interview, in private, Greek Cypriots who applied for permanent transfer to the southern part of the island in order to verify that the transfer was voluntary. Ten such transfers took place during the reporting period. UNFICYP also facilitated temporary visits by Greek Cypriots to the southern part of the island, including special arrangements for Greek Cypriots and Maronites living in the north to take part in the parliamentary elections in the south. Over 500 temporary transfers took place during the period under review. At Easter 21 Greek Cypriot schoolchildren were allowed to spend their holidays with their parents in the Karpas region.

24. In January the death of Maria Lazarides, an elderly Greek Cypriot woman resident in the Karpas region, gave rise to numerous allegations of foul play. The Turkish Cypriot authorities cooperated closely with UNFICYP in the resulting investigation. On the basis of a thorough investigation, including a post mortem performed in the presence of an UNFICYP medical officer, UNFICYP concluded that the death of Maria Lazarides was due to natural causes.

25. Following the death of Maria Lazarides, UNFICYP requested that the Turkish Cypriot authorities allow United Nations personnel more access to Greek Cypriots living in the Karpas region. As a result, UNFICYP now carries out resupply runs twice a week; an UNFICYP medical officer makes periodic visits to the Karpas in an effort to have more contact with the Greek Cypriots living there; and UNCIVPOL makes monthly deliveries of social welfare and pension benefits.

26. However, a number of issues concerning the Greek Cypriots living in the Karpas region remain unresolved. The questions of refurbishing the Greek Cypriot elementary schools and the Cape Andreas monastery, the installation of a telephone line from the Karpas region to the south, more frequent temporary transfers and possible visits from families living in the south and abroad are being actively pursued by UNFICYP with the Turkish Cypriot authorities.

27. UNFICYP continued its periodic visits to the Turkish Cypriots living in the southern part of the island. It also helped them to maintain contact with their relatives in the northern part and arranged 13 family reunions involving 74 persons at the Ledra Palace Hotel. These periodic visits by UNFICYP were not restricted in the south with the exception of the Limassol area, where UNFICYP initiated negotiations with the Cypriot Police to lift the remaining restrictions. UNFICYP continued to distribute pension benefits to Turkish Cypriots living in the northern part of the island who were formerly employed by the Government of Cyprus.

28. The number of Maronites living in the northern part of the island is now 259. UNFICYP continued to assist in arranging frequent contact between Maronites living on the two sides of the cease-fire lines. UNFICYP also delivered to them approximately 136 tons of foodstuffs and other supplies provided by the Cyprus Government. Contacts between UNFICYP and Maronite

representatives as well as the Maronite Archbishop were maintained during the period under review.

29. UNFICYP continued to provide emergency medical services, including medical evacuation, to civilian members of both communities. When the need arose, UNFICYP escorted Turkish Cypriots to hospitals in the south and regularly delivered medicines to the Turkish Cypriot community. UNFICYP has asked the Turkish Cypriot authorities to permit a helicopter to land in the Karpas peninsula in order to check the landing areas in case of medical emergency.

30. UNFICYP continued its efforts to foster relations in Pyla, a bicommunal village located in the buffer zone. Intercommunal meetings between the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot mukhtars of Pyla resumed in January. However, the police control-point operated by the Government of Cyprus on the Larnaca-Pyla road outside the buffer zone continued to disrupt the economic life of the village severely.

31. In April, work began on the construction of a minaret on the mosque in Pyla. Strong protests were received from the Cyprus Government. This issue generated considerable controversy with allegations that the minaret was intended for military purposes and that its construction would damage relations between the two communities in the village. After a number of meetings between the two mukhtars of Pyla, it became clear that there was no hostility to the idea from the villagers of both communities. UNFICYP negotiated a reduction in the height of the minaret and the construction is proceeding without incident.

32. Another problem that arose in Pyla during the reporting period related to a project initiated by the Turkish Cypriot authorities, without UNFICYP's consent, to install telephones in the homes of the Turkish Cypriot villagers, which would enable them to communicate with the northern part of the island. This action was protested by the Cyprus Government, which insisted that the Cyprus Telecommunications Authority is the only legal telephone company in Cyprus and that it must make any telephone installations in Pyla. The situation was further exacerbated by military exercises conducted by the National Guard in the proximity of Pyla. UNFICYP has requested the Turkish Cypriot authorities not to proceed with their project and is in active contact with both sides in an attempt to resolve this matter.

33. The United Nations Civilian Police (UNCIVPOL) maintained close cooperation and liaison with the Cyprus and Turkish Cypriot Police on matters with intercommunal aspects. In conjunction with UNFICYP line units, they contributed to the maintenance of law and order and assisted in investigations, in the control of civilians in the buffer zone and in humanitarian activities.

34. UNFICYP cooperated with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), as coordinator of United Nations humanitarian assistance to needy displaced persons in Cyprus. UNHCR supported

bicommunal projects such as sewage, medical care and rehabilitation of the handicapped, emergency medical care and environmental matters. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) continued its activities in the framework of the Nicosia Master Plan and pursued projects with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the World Health Organization (WHO).

IV. COMMITTEE ON MISSING PERSONS

35. During the period under review the Committee on Missing Persons in Cyprus held 4 sessions (48th-51st), consisting of 21 meetings of which 15 were attended by the 3 members of the Committee on Missing Persons in Cyprus and their assistants and 6 were attended by the 3 members. The Committee continued its discussions on reports by both sides and its investigations in the field on the cases that have been submitted to it so far. During the period a number of new cases were submitted to the Committee. At the conclusion of its 51st session on 31 May, the Committee issued a communiqué appealing to all concerned "to pursue systematically and with greater efforts their indispensable assistance to its activities. The most important aspect of the mandate is the interviewing of witnesses and here, in particular, the Committee needs the full support of all."

V. FINANCIAL ASPECTS

36. The cost to the United Nations of maintaining UNFICYP for a further period of six months beyond 15 June 1991, should the Security Council decide to extend the mandate of the Force and assuming continuation of its existing strength and responsibilities, is estimated at $15.4 million, as detailed below:

UNFICYP cost estimate by major category of expense

(In thousands of United States dollars)

I.	Operational costs incurred by the United Nations	
	Movement of contingents	290
	Operational expenses	1 720
	Premises (maintenance, utilities, etc.)	746
	Rations	965
	Non-military personnel, salaries, travel, etc.	3 229
	Miscellaneous and contingencies	250
	Total I	7 200

II. Reimbursement of extra costs of Governments providing contingents

Pay, allowances and transport	7 400
Contingent-owned equipment	700
Death and disability	100
Total II	8 200
Grand total (I and II)	15 400

37. The estimate does not reflect the full cost of the operation. It excludes, in particular, the regular costs that would be incurred by troop contributors if their contingents were serving at home (i.e., regular pay and allowances and normal expenses for matériel), as well as such extra costs as they have agreed to absorb.

38. That part of the financing of the cost of the Force which is borne by the Organization is dependent entirely on voluntary contributions from Governments. In this regard, Member States have contributed only $3.2 million against anticipated expenditures of some $15.4 million for the mandate period that is about to end. As these contributions have never been sufficient to meet the cost of the Force, the reimbursement claims from the troop-contributing countries have been met only up to December 1980. Unless additional contributions are received, the accumulated deficit in the UNFICYP Special Account is expected to be approximately $178.7 million for the periods from the inception of the Force to the end of the current mandate period.

VI. GOOD OFFICES OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

39. In my statement of 27 March 1991, I reported to the Security Council on my mission of good offices. On 28 March 1991, the President of the Security Council issued a statement on behalf of its members in which the members of the Council, inter alia, welcomed my intention to submit a further report by early July 1991 on my effort to arrive at an agreed outline of an overall settlement. The members of the Council stated that they would decide, in the light of the situation at that time, on any further measures for proceeding that may be necessary.

VII. OBSERVATIONS

40. During the past six months, UNFICYP continued to perform its important functions in an exemplary manner, often under difficult circumstances.

41. In the light of the prevailing circumstances, I have no doubt that the continued presence of the Force in the island remains indispensable to achieve

the objectives set by the Security Council. I therefore recommend to the Council that it extend the mandate of UNFICYP for a further six-month period. In accordance with established practice, I have undertaken consultations on this matter with the parties concerned and I will report to the Council on these consultations as soon as they have been completed.

42. In making this recommendation, I must again stress that UNFICYP is facing a chronic and ever-deepening financial crisis, which imposes a most unfair burden on the troop-contributing countries. I fully share their Governments' concern at this situation. As I have suggested on a number of occasions, the best way to finance UNFICYP on a more equitable basis would be for the United Nations share of the costs of the Force to be financed from assessed contributions. Following the adoption of Security Council resolution 682 (1990) of 21 December 1990, the Secretariat has been cooperating actively with the Group of Friends of the President of the Security Council in the preparatory work it has undertaken to facilitate the Council's consideration of this issue.

43. I take this opportunity to express my deep appreciation to the Governments contributing troops and civilian police to UNFICYP for the steadfast support they have continued to give this important peace-keeping operation of the United Nations. I also wish to express my gratitude to the Governments that have contributed towards the financing of the Force.

44. In concluding, I wish to pay tribute to my Special Representative, Mr. Oscar Camilión, to the Force Commander, Major General Clive Milner, and to the military and civilian personnel of UNFICYP who have continued to discharge with efficiency and dedication the important and difficult responsibilities entrusted to them by the Security Council.